

**Status of the Claims**

1. (Original) A cutting apparatus, in particular a microtome or an ultramicrotome, for cutting specimens, comprising an observation device, in particular a stereomicroscope with an objective, a unit base, a knife carrier, an X-Y stage on which the knife carrier is mounted, a linear guide for displacement of the X-Y stage and a plurality of mounting surfaces for the linear guide are milled, directly on the unit base.
2. (Withdrawn) The cutting apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein stiffening ribs, which are directed upward from a plane of the unit base, are provided in order to enhance stability.
3. (Original) The cutting apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the objective has an increased working distance, in particular of 110 mm.
4. (Original) The cutting apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the observation device comprises a pivoting device on which an illumination device is arranged in such a way that it also pivots as the observation device pivots.
5. (Withdrawn) The cutting apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein a plurality of operating knobs are provided that are arranged in stepped fashion with respect to one another in terms of their lateral position on the stereomicroscope.
6. (Original) The cutting apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein a unit hood is provided whose corners are recessed in such a way that upon pivoting of the

stereomicroscope about its pivot axis, the illumination device and the stereomicroscope can be moved past the unit hood with no contact between them.

7. (Original) A microtome or an ultramicrotome, for cutting specimens, comprising a stereomicroscope with an objective, wherein the objective has an increased working distance, of 110 mm, a unit base, a knife carrier, an X-Y stage on which the knife carrier is mounted, a linear guide for displacement of the X-Y stage, and a plurality of mounting surfaces for the linear guide are milled, directly on the unit base.
8. (Original) A microtome or an ultramicrotome, for cutting specimens, comprising: a stereomicroscope with an objective, wherein the objective has an increased working distance, of 110 mm, an illumination device is arranged in such a way that it also pivots as the stereomicroscope pivots, a unit base, a knife carrier, an X-Y stage on which the knife carrier is mounted, a linear guide for displacement of the X-Y stage, and a plurality of mounting surfaces for the linear guide are milled, directly on the unit base.
9. (Withdrawn) A microtome or an ultramicrotome, for cutting specimens, comprising a stereomicroscope with an objective, wherein the objective has an increased working distance, of 110 mm, a plurality of operating knobs that are arranged in stepped fashion with respect to one another in terms of their lateral position on the stereomicroscope, a unit base, a knife carrier, an X-Y stage on which the knife carrier is mounted, a linear guide for displacement of the X-Y stage, and a plurality of mounting surfaces for the linear guide are milled, directly on the unit base.

10. (Original)        A microtome or an ultramicrotome, for cutting specimens, comprising a stereomicroscope with an objective, wherein the objective has an increased working distance, of 110 mm, an illumination device is arranged in such a way that it also pivots as the stereomicroscope pivots, a unit hood whose corners are recessed in such a way that upon pivoting of the stereomicroscope about its pivot axis, the illumination device and the stereomicroscope can be moved past the unit hood with no contact between them, a unit base, a knife carrier, an X-Y stage on which the knife carrier is mounted, a linear guide for displacement of the X-Y stage, and a plurality of mounting surfaces for the linear guide are milled, directly on the unit base.